

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



### NEWS RELEASE

*Cora Campbell, Commissioner*  
*Jeff Regnart, Director*



Contact:  
Glenn Hollowell, Finfish Area Management Biologist  
Ethan Ford, Fisheries Biologist  
Phone: (907) 235-8191, Fax: (907) 235-2448

Lower Cook Inlet Area Office  
3298 Douglas Place  
Homer, AK 99603

Date Issued: Friday, May 18, 2012, 2:00 pm

### Lower Cook Inlet Salmon Fishery News Release #1

**EASTERN DISTRICT:** The Eastern District excluding waters outside of the Bear Lake Special Harvest Area (SHA) will open for the 2012 season at 6:00 am on Monday, May 21 until 10:00 pm on Sunday, May 27 for a 160-hour period for Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) hatchery cost recovery. **Commercial common property fishing in all waters of the Eastern District remains closed.** A schedule of 6:00 am Monday through 10:00 pm Sunday cost recovery only fishing periods will continue until further notice.

The Bear Lake Special Harvest Area is defined as marine waters of Resurrection Bay north of the latitude of Caines Head at 59° 58.93' N. latitude, and including the fresh waters of Bear Creek, Salmon Creek and Resurrection River downstream from and including the Bear Creek weir.

The Resurrection Bay commercial sockeye salmon fishery will be managed with the intent of achieving the CIAA cost recovery goal as well as meeting hatchery and wild stock escapement needs. Additionally, the department will be managing all Cook Inlet SHA's with the intent of achieving the CIAA established financial and broodstock objectives. CIAA has established an overall revenue goal of \$1.55 million in 2012. Assuming an average value of \$1.85 per pound and an average weight of 5.8 pounds per fish, 144 thousand sockeye salmon are required to meet this goal. CIAA anticipates harvesting all of the returning Tutka Bay sockeye salmon (28,000 fish) for cost recovery and broodstock in addition to approximately 136 thousand of the 216 thousand hatchery released sockeye salmon forecast to return to Resurrection Bay. SHAs may be opened to commercial common property seining for sockeye salmon in 2012 if the CIAA revenue goal is achieved or if its attainment can be projected.

Hatchery effort and harvest, as well as escapement, will be closely monitored inseason to assess progress towards achieving established goals. Daily catch reports are mandatory, and processors purchasing Resurrection Bay hatchery-caught fish are required to phone or fax their catch reports to the Homer ADF&G office on a DAILY basis.

Vessels participating in the Resurrection Bay hatchery cost recovery opening are advised that closed waters will be the same as those used for the commercial seine fishery during the last twelve seasons. All waters along the west shore of Resurrection Bay west of a line from the old military dock pilings north of Caines Head to a marker near the Seward Airport will remain closed to seining. In addition, markers posted near the Resurrection River mouth continue to remain in effect again this year, and fishing will be allowed up to the markers. Hatchery seiners are also reminded that, by regulation, Chinook and coho salmon may not be taken in any waters of Resurrection Bay since these species are allocated to the recreational fishery.

All hatchery seiners should note that the Memorial Day holiday occurs on Monday, May 28, and a large recreational fleet will likely be present in Resurrection Bay on that day. Although mostly minimal interaction between the recreational and seine user groups has occurred during past seasons, seiners are advised that the Resurrection Bay Salmon Management Plan specifically directed the department to manage the commercial fishery in a manner that does not interfere with the recreational fishery. The staff is reliant on the voluntary cooperation of the seine fleet to comply with this regulation if potential conflicts arise.

**The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Friday, May 25.**

Announcement recordings are available on the 24-hour telephone recording in the Homer office at 907/235-7307.

Additionally, announcements, inseason harvest data, and escapement data are available at the following web address:  
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyarealci.salmon>

Unless otherwise specified, all openings are clock openings based on Alaska Daylight Time, which is based on Coordinated Universal Time and may be obtained by calling 303-499-7111.

The department encourages commercial permit holders to renew their licenses early and to check their CFEC vessel registration stickers to make sure that they are current.

The department encourages permit holders to report observed violations to Wildlife Safeguard at 1-800/478-3377. Reports are anonymous and cash rewards may be paid for successful prosecution of violations.